

WHO STUFFED THIS BALLOT BOX?

Gruber Says the Low Men
Did, but They Indig-
nantly Deny It

TWO VOTES TOO MANY.

Perhaps the Case Will Go to the
Grand Jury, to Mr. Ol-
cott's Embarrassment.

GRUBER'S MEN THE LOSERS.

But They'll Protest at the Convention
Against Seating the Anti-Platt Dele-
gates from the "First of
the Twenty-first."

Abraham Gruber and his Platt lieutenants in the Twenty-first Assembly District, are threatening the punishment of Seth Low supporters who, they allege, helped stuff the ballot box at the First Election District primary on Monday night. They asserted yesterday that they had secured sufficient evidence of crookedness to warrant presenting their case to District Attorney Olcott, with a demand that he bring it to the attention of the Grand Jury.

It so happens that the District Attorney is the man Thomas Collier Platt says he intends to nominate for Mayor of the Greater New York. It also happens that the alleged frauds were perpetrated in Olcott's own Assembly District. Though the accused men are backers of Low, the embarrassment of Mr. Olcott in being called to prosecute must be apparent.

Mr. Gruber, who runs the entire Twenty-first District for Platt, and who in backing Olcott for Mayor, has for weeks been taunted by anti-machine men with the boast that they would take the district away from him. They said that not only would the district declare for Low, but that it would show a big majority for James S. Baruch, the anti-Platt candidate for Councilman.

Gruber's lie was rose and he determined to give his opponents the worst of it. He took few into his confidence, but planned to carry the war into every anti-machine election district.

The First District, of which Assistant Corporation Counsel John Proctor is the anti-machine leader, was one of those selected.

Gruber conducted a still hunt and almost up to the time the ballots were counted neither Clarke nor his dupes appear to have been aware that there was a contest.

At the polls closed at nine o'clock, P. M. in the West Side Republican Clubhouse, where the primary was held, Frank B. Timothy, who acted as chairman of the board of inspectors, declared that the anti-Platt ticket had won by a vote of twenty-three to nineteen. Oscar Hoffstadt, who had been deputized by Gruber to watch the count, jumped up at the moment this announcement was made and claimed: "I challenge the count on the ground that there are more ballots in the box than have been actually voted."

Mr. Clarke, who had spent the evening by the side of Chairman Timothy and had taken with him a small band of followers, flatly refused to protest that anything was all right. But Mr. Hoffstadt insisted upon a recount. The ballots were counted. They numbered thirty-two, of which twenty-three were for the anti-Platt, and nineteen for the Platt candidates for seats in the Assembly District Convention.

At the protest against the counting of the result on the ground that more ballots are in the box than there are names on the poll list," yelled Hoffstadt.

"And I demand that extra ballots be thrown out," shouted Mr. Gruber, who had been sent for and had just arrived, on the condition of counting the machine men of conducting the primary. The two are engaged in actually stuffing a ballot box," added Gruber angrily.

"By no means," he replied, "mean that. You really cannot mean it," protested Mr. Clarke indignantly.

To Compare with the Poll List.

"Well, let's have the count over again and compare it with the poll list," insisted Gruber and Hoffstadt, in the same breath.

"Certainly," said Clarke.

The poll list was procured and it was found to contain forty instead of forty-two names.

"Just as I thought," roared Hoffstadt. "And I know of six others whose names have been voted on to-night, though none of them has been inside the house. And I purpose to have this thing showed up," added Hoffstadt excitedly.

"Protest, the vote and present your case to the convention on Friday night," argued Clarke, who was now in the middle of the old and hangers on.

"I demand that eight of those ballots be thrown out," persisted Hoffstadt.

"As a matter of fact, the two extra ballots should be thrown out. It still left the Platt men in a minority of four."

"I'll carry that up to the convention and see if we can't fair play there," shouted Gruber. "I think that two hundred of the two hundred and forty delegates will agree with me that this is a clear case of fraud," added the little boss of the Twenty-first.

Mr. Gruber demanded that J. Edgar Learycraft, one of the inspectors who failed to put in an appearance until ten minutes prior to the closing of the polls, should not be permitted to sign the certificate declaring the result. He was overruled.

It is now Mr. Gruber's mission to discover who stuffed the ballot box. He says today that he thought he knew, but would not tell until the case had gone to the Grand Jury.

Mr. Clarke says yesterday: "I admit that it was a nasty piece of business, and I feel grieved that it should have happened in my own district. While it is true that I sat at the same table with Messrs. Timothy, Learycraft and Snedden, who acted as inspectors, and that I wrote at the request of Mr. Timothy, the ballots voted by my friends, I did not think that there was anything going on that was illegal. They were recounted, Messrs. Timothy, Learycraft and Snedden are men of the highest character. They certainly had nothing to do with the irregularity. None regarded the incident more than they. How those two extra ballots got inside the ballot box is something that I do not know. I do not believe they can. I am satisfied that the charge that eight fraudulent ballots were cast cannot be substantiated. I am just as anxious as Mr. Gruber to punish the offender. No doubt at Friday night's convention the matter will come up for discussion."

Mr. Gruber will demand at the convention that the four anti-Platt delegates from the First District be admitted to seats, and that four of his own selection shall not sit in their stead. The dispute promises to be the feature of the proceedings.

Every legitimate want supplied—quickly—cheaply—by a Journal want ad.

Horshoovers Win a Strike.

A strike of eight hundred horshoovers belonging to Journeymen Horshoovers' Union, No. 1, which went into effect on Monday, was settled yesterday and the strikers returned to work. The strikers demanded higher wages, a shorter workday and better conditions regarding overtime for special work. The wages demanded were a minimum scale of \$2.50 a day for horshoovers working before the day and night shifts.

The settlement of the strike was the result of a compromise between the employers and strikers. The strike affected 30 shops.

WENT TO PORT FOR THEIR LIVES

Steamer Oneida Nearly Sunk by Shifting of Her Cargo, and
Went Down After Reaching Her Pier.

Captain Staples and his crew of thirty-five men on the Clyde line freight steamer Oneida, which was on its way from Jacksonville to Boston, had a thrilling race to this port for their lives yesterday morning, and as soon as the vessel reached her dock her stern settled to the river bottom, and the crew were compelled to flee to the deck for safety.

The Oneida left Jacksonville on September 10, and touched at Charleston. She started from there for Boston on September 18 with a cargo of 2,000 bales of cotton, lumber and merchandise. On Monday night, while off the Jersey Highlands, the boat ran into a strong northeast gale, and began to pitch in the heavy sea. The cargo began to shift, first to one side and then to the other, and each time it shifted the vessel would lurch with it. The captain gave at once the order to anchor, but there was no alternative but to make for the nearest port. He ordered on a full head of steam, and the race began. Every moment of the time it took to reach this port was one of suspense, for the crew knew not when their vessel would turn turtle and go to the bottom.

When the Oneida reached the lower bay she blew signals for help, and a tug from the Chapman Wrecking Company was soon by her side. The tug William Chapman towed her to the Clyde line pier and with tackles fastened her to the steamer Seminole.

The crew and longshoremen began at once to remove the cargo. They apparently removed too much from the starboard side, for it was only a short time before the Oneida listed heavily to the port side and the water rushed into her hold in torrents, and the stem of the boat went rapidly to the bottom. The crew were in the hold at the time, and had to rush to the deck for safety.

When the vessel's stern had settled to the bottom, the boat was fully supported by a tackle from the Seminole. It left about one-third of her deck submerged. The work of unloading progressed until 11 o'clock, when the boat returned to the starboard side and more water rushed through the opening and her bow settled gradually to the bottom, leaving only a small portion of her forward deck visible.

The Chapman Wrecking Company ordered more assistance and within a short time the wreckers E. R. Sharpe and Hester and the pumper Bay View, with divers on board, were on the scene.

"The tide receded and fully seven feet of the Oneida's bow was out of the water. The water was being pumped out and the cargo unloaded as rapidly as possible. The damage to the cargo could not be ascertained. About two hundred bales of cotton had been removed and much of the general cargo.

The cause of the misfortune was improper loading, the cargo being too heavy. The Oneida is a small, freighted steamer 850 tons register, 360 feet long, with an iron hull and is an old vessel. She lies at Pier No. 29 East River, off Dover street.

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WOULD TEAR WEALTH FROM TRUSTEES.

Jason Rogers's Two Daughters
Charge Them with
Misappropriation.

ONE OF THEM A BROTHER.

Another Is William Caudwell,
Owner of the Hotel
Empire.

The name of Jason Rogers has been rolled over the country on locomotive engines, the products of the great Rogers works at Paterson, N. J., that he founded. The name now is to be rolled through the courts, for Jason Rogers left too much property to be divided without family dissensions. Legacies of hate go with bequests of millions.

The old engine maker and fortune builder died away back in 1868, nearly thirty years ago, and in his will he made ample provision, by direct bequest, for the comfort of his son Thomas and his daughters, Mary and Flora. The son received 100 shares of stock of the Rogers Locomotive Works Company, stock in the Paterson and Hudson River Railroad Company and stock in the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad Company.

Having made these direct bequests Jason Rogers committed other property to a trust, for the benefit of his two daughters, and as trustee he named his brothers, Jacob, Columbus and Theodore, and his son Thomas. Only the brother, Columbus, and the son, Thomas, qualified to serve, and in 1880 Columbus Rogers resigned the trust and William Caudwell was appointed in his stead.

Now the two daughters, Mary, who is Mrs. Westfield, and Flora, who is Miss Flora still, by a document filed yesterday in the office of the Surrogate, accuse these trustees—their brother Thomas and William Caudwell—with appropriating money of the trust to their own use. This document alleges that in 1893 the trustees reported to the surrogate of Westchester County that they had in the principal trust fund \$483,58